

REMARKS

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement herein on August 21, 2003 and note that no copy of the PTO-1449 was returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the information cited on the PTO-1449 be made of record herein. A copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and three (3) page PTO-1449 are enclosed for the Examiner's convenience. Applicants note that the U.S. patent to Ellingsen, already of record herein, was cited incorrectly as U.S. Patent 5,331,820 on page 2 of the above-referenced PTO-1449 and has been crossed through by Applicant to avoid confusion.

Preliminary Amendment

Applicants' undersigned attorney notes the filing herein of a Preliminary Amendment on December 8, 2003, which filing was not acknowledged in the outstanding Office Action. Should the Preliminary Amendment have failed for some reason to have been entered in the Office file, Applicants' undersigned attorney will be happy to have a true copy thereof hand-delivered to the Examiner.

The Office Action

The Office Action mailed September 7, 2004, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 17, and 33 through 38 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 through 17, and 33 through 38 stand rejected. Applicants have formally canceled claims 19 through 32, and respectfully request reconsideration of the application as amended herein.

Double Patenting Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 6,619,029

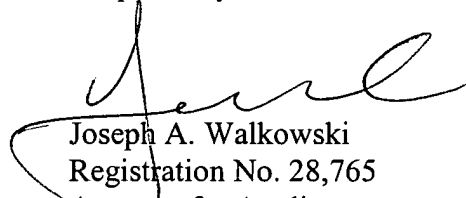
Claims 1 through 17 and 33 through 38 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 27 of U.S. Patent No. 6,619,029. In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicants elect to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing a terminal disclaimer to obviate the

double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicants' filing of the terminal disclaimer should not be construed as acquiescence of the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Attached is the terminal disclaimer and accompanying fee.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1 through 17 and 33 through 38 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, he is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph A. Walkowski
Registration No. 28,765
Attorney for Applicants
TRASKBRITT
P.O. Box 2550
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550
Telephone: 801-532-1922

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JAW/dlm:ljb

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